KEEPING IN
TOUCH

November 1996

A Visitation From Generation "X"

COVER STORY REV ELDER NANCY WILSON

The following is excerpted from an article written for the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review, concerning the struggle to deal with religion in the gay and lesbian community, and the spiritual and religious concerns of lesbian and gay youth.

I was invited to speak at a local high school, at their equivalent of "Project 10", a school-sponsored support program for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning kids one of the teachers had called, frantically looking for help: she needed someone to offer a divergent view. It seems the week before, the group stumbled upon a discussion of religion, and one of the kids had said that homosexuality was a sin. All the other kids agreed. They had never heard of any other viewpoint.

The kids in the class were lively teenagers, and in dress and mannerism were nearly indistinguishable from the other kids in school. I brought t-shirts with our church's "No More Homophobic Religion" logo on them, along with pamphlets about homosexuality and the Bible, and about MCC. They scarfed them up like a mid-morning snack.

The teacher introduced me. I asked how many of them had ever seen a woman in a clergy collar. No one responded. Not only that, but I said "I'm a lesbian." Eyes grew. Then I told them that I pastored a church founded by a man who tried to kill himself after he came out and was kicked out of his church. They were with me. Then I said, "How many of you have heard that homosexuality is a sin?" Every hand shot up. "Well ," I said, "It's a lie." And then a very strange thing happened: they didn't want to talk about it anymore! This frustrated the teacher and mystified me. Slowly I realized that they were not engaging the discussion because they had more important, burning, and in their own minds, religious questions to ask. And these questions weren't what the teacher or I had expected.

First question: *"What do you talk about at church?"* This was asked by a very effusive young girl who made me feel like I was her Career Day speaker. She wanted to know all about what I did in my job. But mostly, what we talked about in church. Was it boring? Was it just about gay stuff? Did we talk about "real life"?

Second Question:*"Are you the same at home as you are at church?"* This was asked by a child who was very interested in the fact that I wasn't celibate. The integrity question. Am I just another religious hypocrite, a phony, a lesbian Elmer Gantry (they would never know who he was, so I might say Jim Bakker or Jimmy Swaggert). Do I walk what I talk? Am I who I am no matter where I am, or is this just a 9 to 5 job. A performance, an act? Can they trust me? Young seminarians learn that they have to pass two tests in any congregation: the test of professional authenticity (Are you competent?), and the test of personal authenticity (Are you for real?). These kids had brought up both questions in rapid succession.

Third Question: *"Do you have field trips?"* This one threw me at first and took me a while to translate. I was, in fact speechless! Fumbling, "We-had-a-beach-party-and-baptism-service-does-that-count?" I blurted out. It evidently did because it got responses of "cool," etc. But the question really being asked was "Do you have enough fun?"

continued on page 2

EUROPEAN CHURCHES FOCUS ON GROWTH

On September 6-8th, eight MCC Congregations in England participated in a weekend church growth retreat conducted by Rev. Elder Don Eastman as part of the Strategic Growth Initiative. This follows a previous Church Development workshop conducted last May by SGI Team member Rev. Arlene Ackerman.

GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS REV ELDER DON EASTMAN

A Work In Progress

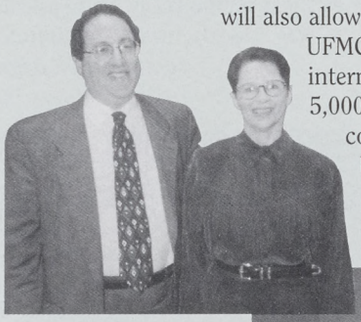
Visitors to the new international offices of the UFMCC will usually see a work in progress as development of this extraordinary facility continues over the next few years. Construction to reconfigure the buildings of the UFMCC and the historic "mother church," MCC Los Angeles, is occurring in several phases as sufficient funds are raised.

"Angels In Charge" was the theme on October 18, 1996 as we celebrated the occupancy of UFMCC's new Center for Service and Support on the second floor of the five-story building. The building will eventually be totally occupied by MCC's global headquarters. Rev. Troy D. Perry, Founder and Moderator of the UFMCC, cited Psalm 91 as he unveiled a key design motif of the new facilities: "This Fellowship was born in The City of Angels, and from the beginning, God's angels have had charge over us". Because of a very generous major contribution by Ms. Linda Davidge of Austin, Texas, a beautiful reception center is the first area visitors will step into as they enter the second-floor offices. Highlighting this area is a custom-built reception counter designed to be fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a US federal law. Rev. Perry and Ms. Davidge were joined by West Hollywood Mayor Paul Koretz, members of the Founders Five Hundred, the General Council, and UFMCC Staff for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Rite of Blessing for the reception area.

Already, an improved working environment and increased productivity of UFMCC staff has resulted in more effective service to local MCC congregations and leaders. In recent months, for instance, distribution has doubled for the UFMCC's popular news and resource publication, *Keeping In Touch.* This month, one member of a local MCC wrote, "One day I found a copy of *Keeping In Touch* on the church bulletin board. I read it from cover to cover. Now it is my favorite periodical to read each month. My perception of Metropolitan Community Church was greatly enhanced once I started reading KIT. United, we can have a much greater impact on the world."

Key to this new working environment is a focus on technology. The entire international headquarters team is now linked by computer network, the beginning of a *UFMCC Global Intranet* which will be developed as a part of the Technology Center when funds are available. The Technology Center will also allow for expansion of the UFMCC's Web Site on the global internet. In September, more than 5,000 people from 43 countries contacted the UFMCC Web Site, at (http://www.ufmcc.com) and

continued on page 7



Above West Hollywood Mayor Paul Koretz and Ms. Linda Davidge at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Right UFMCC Reception Desk at the Global Headquarters.

Are we willing to leave our comfortable ghettos, go learning and exploring? Do we dance and party and laugh?

Fourth Question, the collective question that had nothing to do with gay and lesbian issues: *"What happens to us when we die?"* It was the big question of the morning, and hung heavily in the air. The questioner wanted to know what I personally believed, and I told her. This brought about lively discussion. And all the while, the teacher squirmed, still wanting to talk about Leviticus and Romans, not realizing that we were way past that. Soaring, in fact.

Fifth Question: *"How much does it cost to get married?"* Bingo. First of all, they assumed that I would and could marry them, no matter what their sexual orientation. When I began to clarify the legal issue to them, I found that they were well aware of the Hawaii case, and about the legal status of gay and lesbian marriage. But again, they were way down the road. Convinced that the world would catch up eventually, they wanted to investigate the practical issues. Would I marry them, in our church, and how long did they have to save up money for the event? They were dating, falling in love, exploring sexual intimacy, and fantasizing about their wedding day. And they just wanted to know if they would be able to afford my services. Would I be there for them?

These questions were a visitation from Generation X for me. All I had learned in church growth workshops never had an impact on me like this. I got it in a new way. I got that their questions needed to guide our agenda at MCC into the new millennium, our agenda for a new Reformation. And I'm still interpreting them. How open are we to the real questions lesbian, gay, bi and questioning youth and kids are asking? How important it will be, 5, 10, 15 years from now to produce resources and leaders who will be enjoying the questions people are actually asking!

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson is Senior Pastor of MCCLA.

CONFERENCE REV. DIANE FISHER

Should I Go To General Conference 1997?

Yes, Yes, Yes!!! As someone who has just returned from experiencing a small portion of the hospitality MCC's in Australia have to offer, I say "pack up your old kit bag". What wonders you will be treated to! Cockatoos skimming about overhead, Sydney Harbour stretching out before you and just beyond... the ocean. Sydney is a beautiful city, built on hills. The gay "ghetto", is just minutes from the conference site, and it offers great food, shopping and sights. The conference sight itself is spectacular, right down on the harbour and completely accessible. Transportation is easy; there's even a monorail.

I met with the on site coordinator, Rev. Robert Clark, and was truly amazed at how much Sydney has to offer. There are lots of shops on site and there's an aquarium and a ferry. I was checking out possibilities for children and it looks as though there will be lots of opportunities for outings close at hand. There are wildlife sanctuaries close to Sydney where you can experience the Koalas and Kangaroos up close (I held a Koala...it was dream-like).

After looking at the travel agent's packages prepared for General Conference I realized what a deal they were. For less than it cost me to fly to Australia, you can fly and have a hotel room for a week. It actually looks as though the cost will not be all that much different from what I paid to go to Phoenix. So...if you have put Australia out of your mind and stopped considering it as an option - RECONSIDER. It is the opportunity of a lifetime. Don't pass it by! The conference travel agents have some extended packages available as well at substantially reduced costs.

I am sure that the conference itself will be awesome as well! Conferences have always renewed and inspired me. So having it in Australia is just a bonus! I look forward to seeing you in Australia. Until then, TaTa!

GLOBAL OUTREACH REV. JUDY DAHL

Aotearoa, New Zealand "Land of the Long White Cloud"

The beautiful country of New Zealand was first inhabited by the Maori people, who traveled from Hawaii, over one hundred years ago. The Maori language is spoken throughout the country by the Maori people, and more and more by the many others who have come to partake in this incredible land. Many of the names of cities, towns, roads, foods, are of the Maori language. When the first people came upon New Zealand they named it "Aotearoa" or, "Land of the Long White Cloud." When the Maori people greet one another they say..."Kia Ora," welcome.

The UFMCC has been in New Zealand for 21 years. We have 3 churches in this country. MCC Auckland, a chartered church sits in the heart of the city and has just recently developed a statement of purpose which will help them reach into the young adult and women's communities more intentionally. Their pastor, The Rev. Michael Horn, also the Area Coordinator for New Zealand is currently involved in planting churches in more new cities in their country.

Rev. Iris Saggers and Rev. Leigh Neighbours have just recently formed a team ministry in Hamilton, a small city an hour south of Auckland. They meet on the beautiful campus of Waikato University in the Interfaith Campus Chapel. Rev. Saggers and her partner, Olive play a vital role in the woman's community and Rev. Neighbours and his partner, Dennis live another hour south of Hamilton in the small village of Mangakino, population 1,500 people. Aside from the pastoral work which Leigh has just begun with Iris in Waikato, Leigh is also a working chaplain in a special ministry in Mangakino. He works in "The Lodge", a home for those with minor health challenges and "The Rest Home". His ministry as an MCC pastor reaches far and wide.

Christchurch, is the home of another vibrant and growing MCC. Our beloved Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein has been their recent Pastor. They meet in a beautiful old Anglican church where MCC is not only housed but embraced by the host congregation. The Church has selected a team of two, Andrew Donaldson and Gordon Push, to serve in an interim pastoral role.

The Area Conference for New Zealand was held in Christchurch, October 1996. The first day was designed to give the clergy an opportunity to meet with each other to share pastoral and personal challenges and triumphs.

Twenty-two people participated in the conference on day two. Rev. Elder Hein led the participants through small and larger group exercises which allowed us to experience both the personal and congregational needs in our churches. The afternoon session was conducted by Mr. Dan Knowles, the Director of the Ettie Rout Centre which works with people affected by HIV and AIDS. He described the face of AIDS in New Zealand. There have been 575 cases of AIDS diagnosed since 1982. All but 75 of those people have died. The face of AIDS in New Zealand, like the face of AIDS around the globe is beginning to shift from gay men to other high risk groups, especially heterosexual women and men.

Sunday, October 13, was the closing service for the Conference, culminating with the ordination service. Rev. Iris Saggers and Rev. Leigh Neighbours formally took on the mantel to continue this good work along with so many others in Aotearoa New Zealand...the Land of the Long White Cloud.

■ **Above** Standing outside the church after the ordination service; (from left to right top row): Rev. Andrew Donaldson, Richard Tankersley, Rev. Michael Horn, Rev. Carol Graham (host church pastor), Rev. Judy Dahl, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein and in the front, the two ordinands, Rev. Leigh Neighbour and Rev. Iris Saggers.

■ **Left** (left to right) Rev. Michael Horn, Area Coordinator , Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, and Rev. Judy Dahl beside the tree All Saints MCC planted in the yard of the host church, Holy Trinity Anglican on the one year anniversary of meeting in their shared facility.

MCC Puerto Rico Cristo Sanador is selling Puerto Rican Coffee!

"Comuni-tás; if it's good enough for the Pope, it's good enough for us"
Did you Know Puerto Rico supplies all vatican coffee?

Great for Christmas & Thanksgiving Gifts!

Packaged beautifully in an aluminum bag with an air filter to keep moisture constant.

This effort is a way to be interdependent with local churches in the Global Outreach Ministries. It is a way of giving and receiving.

For More Information Contact: Pablo Navarro Hernandez (787) 721-6358

To Order Send Check Payable to ICM Cristo Sanador, Calle Sol 204, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901
Name_____ Phone_____
Address_____
Please send _____ bags at $10 each plus $2.25 shipping & handling per 5 bags

AIDS MINISTRY QUILT DISPLAY

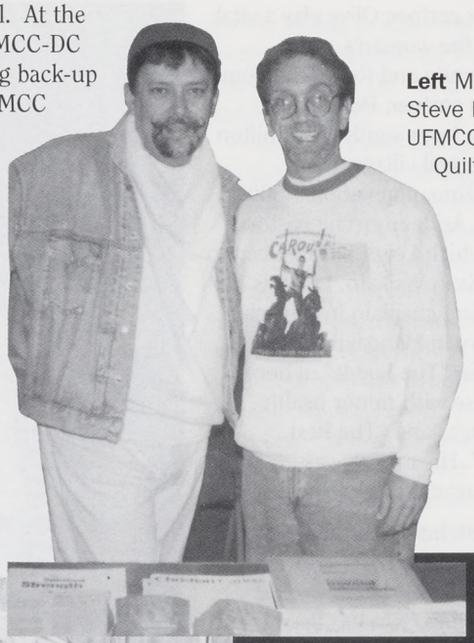
UFMCC Prominent Present at D.C. Quilt Display

UFMCC was a prominent participant in the long weekend of events surrounding the Names Project Quilt Display in Washington, D.C., October 10-13, 1996.

The centerpiece of the weekend was, of course, the Quilt. Whole sections of the Quilt are now devoted to the memory of MCC members lost to AIDS. Long lists of MCC clergy were read from the stages surrounding the Quilt. Throughout the Quilt, there were panels with lists of names of UFMCC clergy and lay leaders, as well as numerous individual panels commemorating the lives of some of our finest. Rev. Steve Pieters, Field Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry, and a number of other MCC members read names throughout the weekend.

UFMCC AIDS Ministry hosted a display exhibit all weekend in the Education Tent at the Quilt Display. Thousands of copies of three UFMCC AIDS Ministry pamphlets, Choose Life; HIV/AIDS: Is It God's Judgment?; and Spiritual Strength for Survival, were distributed at the display, where display copies and order forms were also available for other UFMCC AIDS Ministry resources, such as the manuals Christian Caring, The Spiritual Strength for Survival Support Group Manual, and the Training Manual and Video for the Peer Education Program (PEP/MCC). The display exhibit was ably staffed by volunteers from MCC Washington DC, supervised by Mr. Jim Plankenhorn.

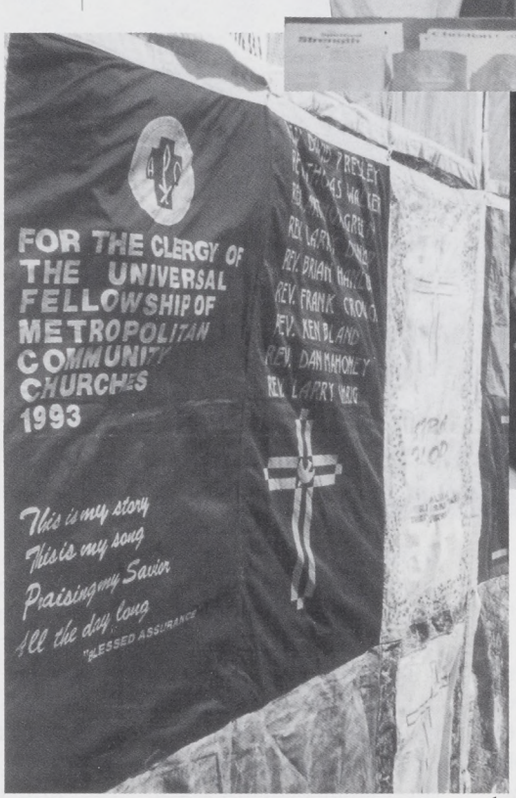
MCC Washington DC was featured throughout the weekend at a variety of events. On Saturday night, Rev. Candace Shultis, pastor of MCC-DC, gave the prayer of invocation in front of over 100,000 people at the Candlelight Memorial, held at the Lincoln Memorial. At the same event, the MCC-DC Gospel Choir sang back-up for Chaka Khan. MCC participants shared the platform that night with Elizabeth Taylor, Judith Light, and a host of heroes in the HIV/AIDS movement. Two of MCC-DC's choirs, the Sanctuary Choir and the Gospel Choir, performed at the Entertainment Stage near the center of the Quilt on Sunday.



Left Mr. Jim Plankenhorn and Rev. Steve Pieters finish setting up the UFMCC AIDS Ministry Booth at the Quilt Display.

Below Left At the D.C. Quilt Display, one of the Quilt panels listing MCC Clergy

Below 100,000 people raise their candles as Rev. Candace Shultis offers the Prayer of Invocation at the Lincoln Memorial during the Quilt Display.



At the Interfaith Service of Healing on Sunday evening at the Washington National Cathedral, MCC members were prominent participants. Once again, the MCC-DC Gospel Choir sang, and near the end of the service, they brought the 4,000 worshipers clapping and singing to their feet. They were the only musicians to elicit this level of response in the service. Rev. Steve Pieters read the Christian scripture (Luke 6:17-21) for the Interfaith Service.

Rev. Pieters was also on the faculty of two conferences held in conjunction with the Quilt Display. At the U.S. National Episcopal AIDS Conference, "AIDS and the Cure of Souls," Pieters presented a paper on "Pastoral Care and the Role of the Care-giving Community." At the U.S. National Skills Building Conference, he led a class on "How To Do a Peer Education Program (PEP/MCC) for Gay Youth." There were large numbers of MCC members at both conferences, affording terrific continuing education opportunities for those involved in HIV/AIDS ministry.

Those on the UFMCCHQ e-mail list received four daily reports from the Quilt Display, written by Rev. Pieters. Further details about the weekend, the educational conferences, and the Quilt will be published in ALERT.

In the words of the closing litany of the Interfaith Service,

"The more names with which we mark and claim our experience, the more inclusive is our vision of the One;

"With words and images, with songs and poems, with needle and thread, with laughter and tears, we have remembered them.

"Let us sing the soul in every name, and the name of every soul,

"Let us sing the soul in every name, the sacred name of every soul."

GOVERNMENT SERVICEMEMBERS

WARNING UFMCC Servicemembers

It has been brought to the attention of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network that there is at least one web site which offers a registration service for gay and lesbian servicemembers so they can meet other gay military personnel in their area.

There are cases of servicemembers who have been pursued based on e-mail

communications. While such pursuit remains relatively rare, it does happen. All gay, lesbian, and bisexual servicemembers should be EXTREMELY careful about releasing information which could link them to statements of orientation, relationships or sexual conduct, especially when the identity of the communication's recipient is unknown. Call SLDN at (202) 328-3244 for free, confidential counseling.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY FRONTRUNNERS

Thanks for Your Generosity

Twenty-eight years ago no one dreamed that the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches would be a world wide movement in 18 countries. We have been faithful to God's calling and God has blessed us abundantly.

This year we asked some individuals, UFMCC organizations and churches to be "Frontrunners", to give in advance of Fellowship Sunday. We asked individuals to give $28 for 28 years and for churches to take up a special offering. The monies are designated for the General Fund of UFMCC for expenses related to moving into our new home. Thanks to your generosity we have already received over $7,000 from individuals and churches, making this one of the most successful Fellowship Sunday Offerings.

These funds will help all of us at the headquarters to provide support, resources and services for our churches and ministries around the globe. Thank you for helping us in this effort.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Prayers are requested for the family and friends of Maria Siebenaler, the lay delegate from MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, Colorado, who died suddenly in September, apparently of a blood clot in her lungs.

GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE

UFMCC Hosts Technology Conference

On January 31-February 1, 1997, "Church for the 21st Century!" UFMCC's first-ever Conference on Technology, will be held in our new facilities in West Hollywood, CA. Everyone is welcome to attend. From all over the Fellowship, women and men with technical knowledge and expertise, as well as those with a passionate interest in our technological future, will gather. Participants will discuss the impact of emerging technology on our mission and ministry, and begin the process of defining the various elements of Rev. Perry's vision for the future of UFMCC. These elements include the proposed UFMCC Technology Center, The International Visitors Center, and our Internet and Intra-net possibilities. They also include the hardware/ software, and programming needs and costs which we will encounter as we proceed with plans for UFMCC to truly become Church for the 21st Century!

Here is a brief, preliminary schedule of Conference events:

Friday, Jan. 31st:

7-8:30 pm: Welcoming Reception, hosted by Rev. Elder Troy Perry will lead off the conference in the new Global Headquarters offices.

Saturday, Feb. 1st:

9am-noon: First Series of "visioning" sessions on above topics

Noon-1:30 pm: Luncheon

1:30-4:00 pm: Second Series of "visioning" sessions

4:00-5:00 pm: Reports to Conference from "visioning" sessions

6:30-8:30 pm: Dinner - Rev. Elder Perry will speak at the Dinner to close the Conference. Attendees will be cordially invited to worship on Sunday AM at UFMCCs "mother" church, MCC Los Angeles.

Complete conference costs, lodging information, details and registration forms will soon be available through UFMCC headquarters and on the UFMCC Global Headquarters website at: http:www.ufmcc.com.

DOING **JUSTICE**

Rev. Mel White

Making A Difference

Standing against the "Defense of Marriage Act" launched an incredible adventure in doing justice for our UFMCC congregation in Great Falls, Montana. For this month's column, I'm reprinting an e-mail from the Rev. Gina Hartung, pastor of MCC Shepherd of the Plains. They took a stand and won a victory for us all.

On Saturday, September 21, 1996 I received an E-mail from Mel White, our UFMCC Justice Minister, asking us to speak out against the "Defense of Marriage Act." I copied the General Council's statement and added a statement of my own, a rainbow flag and took five letters to church. I asked the congregation to sign them if they felt led and we would deliver the letters personally to the TV stations, Democratic offices, local newspaper and mail President Clinton his copy.

By the afternoon of September 22, 1996 I was called to do the first interview for a local station. We have been in the media for six years and have never experienced any overt response other than a few calls or a couple of letters quoting scripture. In my heart I was standing on my passion regarding Holy Union Covenants, and UFMCC'S statement, no more than that.

The first Broadcast aired. I wasn't too pleased with the cut, but I had preached two sermons that day and I was tired, and not expecting the media to respond so quickly. Monday I was called by the other TV station and this time I was much more prepared. The second TV Broadcast was on Monday evening. I did not think the Great Falls Tribune would respond due to the recent article they included me in on Family Values, in which I stated that I would continue to do Holy Unions regardless of the State or the President.

I returned to the office on Tuesday at 2:30 P.M.. When I drove up, I saw what appeared to be a poorly done X on the door. I guessed some kids were having fun, and we'd need to paint over the X before Worship Service. My first appointment arrived shortly after I arrived and came into the office with eyes as big as saucers and said, "Who put the sign of Satan on our door in an inverted cross?" Oops, Country Mouse then saw the light. We searched the building and found a 666, a Swastika, and five pointed star enclosed in a circle on the North wall.

Within a short time the two TV stations and the local newspaper arrived. They took a statement, pictures, cried, and expressed their sadness. The President of the Great Falls Ministerial Association and his wife who are active in the local Human Rights as well as PFLAG, arrived and took this news to the Democratic dinner fundraiser happening that evening. A lady who lives close to the church was called by her Pastor and came walking down the road crying, presented me with a mum and her condolences.

The Catholic Priests of the state as well as the Nuns had their annual meeting, and we were the topic of conversation Tuesday evening. The Synods of ELCA Lutherans were meeting and the hate crime of our church was the focus with them also. We now had been on TV Sunday through Tuesday. On Wednesday morning the front page of the paper featured a story as well as a picture of the front door of the church with the inverted cross and I was holding the mum presented to me by the concerned neighbor.

continued on page 7

A FELLOWSHIP OF **ACTIVITY**

■ Exciting News - A group of 30 people in Fargo, North Dakota are interested in joining UFMCC. Mountains and Plains District Coordinator, Rev. Bob Arthur will be meeting with this group in December to lay the groundwork for their entry.

■ Congratulations to MCC of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado, and to Rev. Jim Burns as the church elected Rev. Burns to be their new pastor.

■ The parish extension of Open Door MCC in Hagerstown, Maryland, has applied for and received official Mission Status. They have also chosen the name New Light MCC, Robert Griffin has been appoint their Interim Pastoral Leader.

■ MCC Ogden, Utah was officially recognized as a New Work in the NWD, UFMCC on August 24, 1996. Rev. Jim Morgan is the Pastor, Rev. Bruce Barton is on staff. Worship is Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Their address is 255 - 32nd, Ogden, UT 94401.

■ Congratulations to MCC Knoxville, Tennessee who will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary in February, 1997.

■ JESUS MCC, Indianapolis, Indiana has called Mr. Jeff Miner as their Pastoral Leader. He will begin the first of the year.

■ Congratulations to Shannon and Deidra Daniels-Young from MCC NOVA, Falls Church, Virginia, who recently became foster parents to Brandon, age 3 1/2 and Shannon just gave birth to a baby girl, Shelby.

■ Belated Congratulations to Victory Arrow MCC, Springfield, Missouri, who celebrated their 19th Anniversary October 3rd.

■ Mid-Atlantic District will be holding their Fall District Conference Nov. 1&2 in Laurel, Maryland. The theme for their conference will be "Sexuality - Created in the Image of God." Their special guest speaker is Rev. Mona West, Dean of Samaritan Institute of Religious Studies, and their special guest musician is Jallen Rix.

EDUCATION REV MAGGIE TANIS

Resources for Children in Worship

There are some easy ways to make your church welcoming and accessible to children and their parents. There are many reasons your church may have children present during worship— you may believe that worship should be shared by all generations or you may not have enough children to have a separate children's program. An hour or more of worship is a long time for many children to remain quiet and unobtrusive. By making worship more kid-friendly and meaningful, you can meet the needs of families and other church members.

One way to do this is provide special bulletins for children that elaborate on the theme of the worship and give the kids activities to do during the more "adult" portions of the service. They are a way to convey the message in language and imagery that children understand. Having clipboards with crayons, pencils and activity sheets at the door tells families that you want them present and were expecting them. The resources listed below have all been "kid-tested" at MCC San Francisco.

Weekly Children's Bulletins:

"Peace Papers"
Based on: Biblical themes
Perspective: Liberal
Inclusive language: Yes
Multicultural images: Yes
Appropriate Ages: Elementary Age Children who can read
Other Information: includes a Family Page with suggestions for family activities and a bibliography of reading for children and adults on the topic
Distribution: Sent quarterly by subscription
Cost: $21/qtr., $79/yr. for master which can be reproduced for local use
Available from: The Parenting for Peace and Justice Network, 4144 Lindell Blvd., #408, St. Louis, MO 63108, (314) 533-4445

"Bulletins for Children"
Based on: Lectionary
Perspective: Moderate
Inclusive language: Almost always; except very familiar passages
Multicultural images: Usually
Appropriate Ages: Younger and Older Elementary Editions
Other Information: 2 color printing
Distribution: Sent quarterly by subscription
Cost: Approximately $35 per quarter for 15 sheets per age group per week (minimum order)
Available from: Logos Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 240, 6160 Carmen Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

"Children's Bulletins— 52 Weeks of Activities"
Based on: Bible Stories
Perspective: Moderate-Conservative
Inclusive language: No
Multicultural images: No (Illustrations of Bible stories)
Appropriate Ages: Older Elementary
Other Information: Reproducible; can make the exact number needed
Distribution: Book of bulletins that can be reproduce freely for local use
Available from: Abingdon Press, 201 Eight Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203; published in 1992, available through bookstores

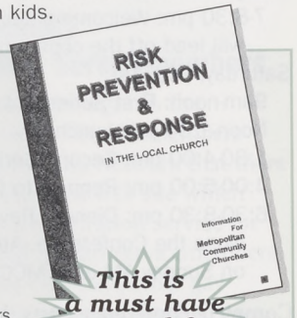
You can also create your own bulletins using materials that you can legally photocopy for local use from the following books. None are in inclusive language (you can change the language before copying them), but all contain useful materials. Most are from a conservative perspective. All of these are available through Christian bookstores.

101 Bible Activity Sheets, Betty deVries, Baker House Books, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1983. Word games for older elementary and junior high age.
Bible Verse Coloring Pages, Chizuko Yasuda, Gospel Light Publishing, Ventura, CA 93006, 1994. Includes younger and older elementary sections. Multicultural image of kids.
Easy-to-Use Bible Activity Sheets, Nellie deVries Betty deVries, Baker House Books, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1989. Word games for older elementary and junior high age.
Fruit of the Spirit Series: A Christian Activity Book with Reproducible Pages, Carole MacKenthun, R.S.M. and Paulinus Dwyer, O.P., Shining Star Publications, P.O. Box 299, Carthage, IL, 62321-0299, 1986. Books in the series are: Love, Joy, Faith, Goodness, Patience and Peace.
Life and Lessons of Jesus Series: Creative Bible Learning Activities for Children Ages 6-12, Tracy Leffinwell Harrast, David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1991. Books in this series are: Jesus is Born, Jesus Grows Up, Jesus Prepares to Serve, Jesus Works Miracles, Jesus Heals, Jesus Teaches Me to Pray, Jesus Shows God's Love, Names of Jesus, Following Jesus, Learning to Love Like Jesus, Jesus' Last Week and Jesus is Alive!
Reproducible Bible Story Coloring Book: Old and New Testament, The Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati Ohio, 1994. Six stories each from the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Can be used by non-readers.
You-Can-Do Bible Activity Sheets, Mary Currier, Baker House Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49516, 1990. Holiday oriented, biblically based word games and activities for older elementary and junior high kids.

"Risk Prevention and Response in the Local Churches"

Compiled by Rev. Elder Donald Eastman

CONTENTS INCLUDE
(1) Responsibilities of Church Leaders
(2) Risks of legal exposure: An Overview
(3) Youth and Childrens activities



This is a must have manual for church leaders

Catalog Number BP9615, $15.00 each; plus $5.00 shipping and handling. For out of country orders shipping will be charged actual costs. CA residents please include 8.25% sales tax. Please call in your order at (310) 360-8640 Ext. 226 , or Fax (310) 360-8680, or mail to 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

A WORK IN PROGRESS...

...continued from page 2

the number increases every month.

Local churches will also benefit from the new visibility of the UFMCC's global headquarters and it's "mother church." Every local church leader knows that improved visibility leads to increased awareness of MCC by more people. And such awareness, when combined with excellence in ministry and service, always leads to growth. Already, this new visibility has been noted in two influential publications. A five-page, in-depth interview with Rev. Troy D. Perry is featured in the September issue of *Christian Century,* the publication most read by North American religious leaders and workers. Also in September, one of the most important newspapers in the US, *The Washington Post,* devoted two full pages in a cover story feature on the MCC movement.

The accomplishments of acquiring this magnificent new home are nothing short of miraculous. Yet, the greatest challenges, many of them appearing as impossibilities, lie ahead. First, there is the urgent need to raise funds for preliminary occupancy for both UFMCC and MCC LA. There is an immediate need for $100,000 to complete this process. Secondly, there is the awesome task of raising funds to substantially reduce the mortgage debt so the rental income from commercial tenants will no longer be needed. Until this happens there can be no further development of the facilities. Finally, there is the ultimate challenge of raising approximately $1,800,000 to complete renovation of the entire facility in order to fulfill the ambitious vision of the UFMCC for the twenty-first century.

Individuals and churches can respond to these needs in several ways. Major gifts are one important key to success. For instance, Ms. Davidge's gift of $30,000 made the reception center possible. A gift of $15,000 by the Cathedral of Hope MCC has funded a conference room, and a pledge of $25,000 from Mr. Jack Campbell, a Florida businessman, will provide an AIDS Ministry Office. Many more donors, whether individuals churches or other organizations, are needed for gifts and naming opportunities such as these. A complete list of such naming opportunities is available from Capital Campaign Coordinator, Rev. David Farrell.

Another way in which individuals and churches can help is through the Capital Campaign pledge drive. Rev. Perry plans to visit 86 local MCC congregations in one year, presenting a powerful vision for MCC's future and an opportunity to participate in this effort. Those who contribute $1,000 or more are included with the Founders Five Hundred. Every gift or pledge, whether large or small, counts. The faith to make a pledge and the faithfulness to pay the pledge are vital to the fulfillment of this dream.

Rev. Perry concluded the celebration, "We are partners with God's angels. We have to do everything within our strength to reach this goal, knowing we are not alone. With God nothing is impossible, and God did not bring us this far to leave us."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

...continued from page 5

On Wednesday I received a call from Rev. Elder Troy Perry and he stated he supported us, and would get the news out on UFMCC Homepage. He concluded by praying a prayer of anointing for myself and the congregation, as only Troy can do. We were interviewed live by two radio stations, one in Great Falls and one in Missoula Wednesday afternoon. At worship Wednesday evening we sang and anointed our Holy Place and I instructed the congregation with the values we have set in times of tribulations. In short, I reminded them that the road to a calvary was no picnic. Do not throw the stones back. That we are called to love those that are hard to love.

Then the Human Rights groups, both local and state wide called with the idea of a rally to say. Not in Our Town! This was the message that Great Falls gave when a predominantly black church was painted last November 1995. I stood at the rally wondering if any of those folks would stand for us as a target group. The answers was yes and even more would come and stand for us.

This story went out on the AP and by Thursday I was contacted by the Jerry Springer show and asked if I would do a show on this topic. National TV. I was called by our MCC in Milwaukee, WI, and a live interview aired on the PBS station there. Little did I know that this had already reached USA Today and that little Great Falls was the first hate crime following Pres. Clinton's signing of DOMA. To think the thing I worried about the most was the frightening effect this could have on those looking to come to MCC. God heard me, and the war with Satan had just begun.

KEEPING IN TOUCH **NOVEMBER 1996**

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to *Keeping in Touch*, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069; 310-360-8640, fax 310-360-8680, UFMCC Email: ufmcchq@aol.com., Web site: http://www.ufmcc.com. Deadline for each issue: l5th of previous month.

Editorial Board
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator;
Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:
Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez,
Rev. Dana Cagle

CLASSIFIED

Cost is $15.00 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069

MCC Richmond, Virginia - 18 year old growing congregation of more than 200 members seeks Senior Pastor who can foster continued spiritual growth through small group lay ministry and provide leadership within the G/L/B/T and religious communities. Gender balanced, inclusive congregation with own building offers strong ministry in the areas of music, HIV/AIDS, social justice, and small groups. Contact Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 6, Gum Spring, Virginia 23065.

Attention Gay Servicemembers! Know your legal rights: say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Service-member Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling 202-328-FAIR.

24 HENRY GUESTHOUSE is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 1-800-900-5686. (415) 864-5686. FAX: 415-864-0406.

MCC Charlottesville seeks pastor with commitment to inclusiveness, community involvement and church growth. Part-time position. Letters of interest: P.O. Box 3275, Charlottesville, VA 22903. E-mail: dminneman@aol.cam.

Do we have the Church for you. If you are interested in pastoring our exciting growing congregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Please send inquiries to: Pastoral Search Committee, Family of Faith MCC, P.O. Box 382, Jenks, OK 74037. Phone 918-622-1441.

Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Telephone: 310-360-8640, Fax: 310-360-8680

FIRST CLASS PRESORT

CHRONICLES

Top 20 Tithes

September 1996

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX $9,059.24
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX 3,875.48
3. MCC Washington, DC 3,116.94
4. King of Peace MCC, St Petersburg 2,532.95
5. Joy MCC, Orlando, FL 1,578.46
6. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX 1,576.88
7. MCC Los Angeles, West Hollywood, CA 1,568.09
8. MCC New York, New York, NY 1,529.23
9. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO 1,486.80
10. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 1,345.58
11. Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO 1,301.99
12. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 1,210.20
13. MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA ,109.13
14. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC 1,014.60
15. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM 1,012.82
16. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS 962.31
17. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX 953.53
18. MCC of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 783.29
19. Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD 813.36
20. St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL 800.12

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to the Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita

August 1996

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA 48.18
2. Safe Harbor MCC, Memphis, TN 35.52
3. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX 34.07
4. MCC Albuquerque, NM 30.51
5. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL 30.26
6. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS 29.32
7. Resurrection Beach MCC, Huntington Bch, CA 26.02
8. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins, CO 25.85
9. Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY 25.63
10. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA 25.52
11. MCC Seattle, Seattle, WA 25.04
12. MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC 24.16
13. Harvest MCC, Denton, TX 23.29
14. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA 22.34
15. MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville, VA 22.30
16. New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC 21.74
17. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT 21.72
18. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO 21.67
19. Joie de Vivre MCC, Baton Rouge, LA 21.46
20. Eternal Life MCC, Lacey, WA 21.40

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offering to the local church.)